

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

What I've noticed over the years and through a study of history, is how the spectrum and diversity of political opinion has narrowed in the major media. Large media companies with huge market shares seem to (inadvertently?) shy away from airing vigorous political debate from all areas of the political spectrum and often ignore controversial news stories. The result has been more superficial coverage of important issues that are in the public's interest and an emphasis on bland "infotainment". Overall, the views that aired in the corporate media are not my own and I often feel left out if the cold.

No wonder it seems like no one votes in this country. A vibrant democracy depends on dynamic major media outlets that foster an informed citizenry. The fact that the story of the sweeping changes proposed by the FCC is being virtually ignored by the media companies that will benefit most from them is a case in point. And hence, the FCC should have no trouble ramming this through in the same manner as with Telecommunications Act of 1996.

I am saddened and deeply troubled that the public organization that is charged with protecting the public's interest in the airwaves that are owned BY THE PUBLIC, NOT PRIVATE FIRMS is even considering another blow to our democracy but allowing even further media concentration. (Look at facts about who owns the major media outlets and ask yourself: Is our media diverse?) I urge the FCC to postpone the June 2nd vote until there has been a more vigorous public debate on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

DAVID GRILCH